

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 28, 2007. The shortened period of time for responding with the enclosed petition for a two-month extension of time expires on April 28, 2008.

Claims 64-66 have been added. These claims are former claims 2, 15, and 22, rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added. The corresponding dependent claims have been amended to depend from such claims. Additionally, claims 1-2, 6-15, 17-26, and 28-33 are canceled; claims 62-63 were previously canceled. Thus, claims 3-5, 16, 27, 34-61, and 64-66 are currently pending in the application and are presented for the Examiner's consideration, in view of the following remarks:

I. REJECTED CLAIMS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 8, 10-15, 17, 19, 21, 23-26, 28, 30, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,554,520 to Tsuchiya ("*Tsuchiya*"). The Examiner has also rejected dependent claims 8, 20, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tsuchiya* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,592,282 to Fontanet. Finally, the Examiner has rejected dependent claims 7, 18, 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tsuchiya*, in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,295,601 to Bostelman.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejections and respectfully submit that such rejections are misplaced. Nonetheless, to further prosecution of the application, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims in the application

and reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to further pursue such claims.

II. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 34-61 are allowed. Furthermore, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-15, 16, 22, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed in more detail below, by virtue of the claim amendments, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 15,¹ and 22 in independent form, respectively, as claims 64, 65, and 66 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 4, and 16 have been amended to depend from the new independent claims. Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of the base claim. With the exception of currently amended claims 3, 4, 16, and 27, allowable claims 34-61, and new claims 64-66, all other claims in the application have been canceled. Thus, all pending claims in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully

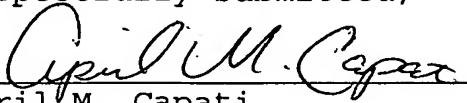
¹ Applicants note that with respect to former claim 15, it was discovered that no antecedent basis was provided for the claim element "slot." Nonetheless, by virtue of new claim 65, the appropriate antecedent basis has been provided.

requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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